

On a Poet's Ninety-First Birthday

(To Jonathan Hoag, Esq., February 10, 1922)

Blessings on thy natal day, Lighter of the lengthened way! Gorgeous by thy brother sun, As thou turnest ninety-one!

Kindled in a happier time, Burneth still thy torch sublime, Destin'd for our joy to save All that former ages gave.

Pure as crystal is the light; Restful to the weary sight; Would that all the world might shine, Scriba, with such rays as thine;

Long hath been thy fulgent course, Leading beauty from the source; Grateful bow'rs their praise declare, Sweeter for thy passing there.

And as now the years increase, May thy beaming never cease; Let the gold of evening glow Like the morn of long ago!

Happy he whose eye may scan Such a full, benignant span; Years of song thou strew'st behind, Like gay blossoms in the wind.

Youth and grace attend thy tread, Fresh bays deck thy silver'd head; Nor can springtime's note depart From the tune within thy heart.

So as stars of evening hold All the deep'ning sunset's gold; Thou thy path mayst e'er prolong, Vital in thy shining song!

H. P. Lovecraft.

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